

ment have received memoranda from Orissa Government regarding the shortage of food items supplied through ration shops and kerosene in Kyonjhar district in Orissa:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to sanction more depots particularly in tribal and harijan villages in Kyonjhar district to remove this shortage during the current Five Year plan period: and

(d) if so, when: and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The allocations are made to a State/U. T. as a whole taking into consideration stocks with the Central Government, market availability, seasonal factors *inter-se* requirements of the State and other related factors. Further distribution within the State is the responsibility of the State Governments who also decide the *inter-se* distribution between districts.

(c) and (d) Sanctioning of more Fair price Shops Depots in various districts/areas is decided by the State Governments concerned keeping in view the needs etc. Central Government has, however, advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to open more Fair Price Shops in uncovered and undercovered areas. They have also been advised to use mobile vans as Fair Price Shops for distribution of PDS commodities, wherever necessary.

(English)

Supply of Coconut Oil through Public Distribution System

3200. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include coconut oil in the list of edible oil to be distributed through Public Distribution System:

(b) whether the Government propose to supply pamolein oil to Kerala to fulfil the immediate demand for edible oil during the Onam season: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No. Sir. Central Government does not handle indigenous edible oils in PDS.

(b) and (c) Since the import of edible oil has been suspended for the time being due to severe foreign exchange constraints it would not be possible to supply pamolein to Kerala until imports of the same are effected.

Telecast of Programmes Involving Participation of General Public

3201. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Doordarshan telecast some programmes which involve participation of general

public :

(b) if so, the details of such programmes :

(c) the criteria adopted for inviting general public for participation in such programmes :

(d) whether Delhi Doordarshan propose to organise some more such programmes in near future : and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi telecast programmes like Prashan Manch, Sports Quiz, Quiz Show, Children's Quiz, Mushaira, Punjabi Kavi Darbar etc. involving participation of general public.

(c) The audience invited for participation in these programmes is on the basis of request received from them and from out of panel of viewers maintained by Audience Research Unit. The participant's interest in the subject and their suitability for the programmes are also kept in view.

(d) and (e) Telecast of programmes involving public participation is a continuous process.

Increase in Retirement Age of Central Government Employees

3202. **DR. C. SILVERA :** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retirement age of officials of Reserve Bank of India has been increased from 58 to 60 years :

(b) if so, the Government also propose to increase the retirement age of Central Government employees from

58 to 60 years ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Reserve Bank of India have decided to increase the age of retirement of its officers recruited/promoted prior to 19th July, 1969 and those workmen recruited prior to 19th July, 1969, but promoted on/after 19th July, 1969 as officers from 58 years to 60 years on selective basis, on the same lines as in the case of a majority of public sector banks. However, the Government have advised the Reserve Bank of India to follow the practice of three monthly review and ad-hoc extension as being done by the Reserve Bank of India for the Class III employees.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Keeping in view the need to provide employment opportunities to a growing number of educated & skilled personnel, the Fourth Pay Commission recommended that the existing age of retirement on superannuation for all Central Government employees should continue to be 58 years. This recommendation has been accepted by the Central Government.

Indo-Bangladesh Agreement in Science And Technology

3203. **DR. C. SILVERA :** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether some agreements for collaboration to the Field of Science